here will attend to you. Archie, see what Mr. Morrison wishes."

The lumberman and the other clerk consulted in a low voice, after which the official turned to fumble among the records. Not finding what he wanted, he approached Smithers. A whispered consultation ensued between these two. Then Smithers called:

"Take a seat, Mr. Morrison. This gentleman is looking over these town-

gentleman is looking over these town-ships, and will have finished in a few

Morrison's eye suddenly became un-"I am somewhat busy this morning," he objected with a shade of command

gentleman."

Now, government and state lands are

the property of the man who pays for them. Although the clerk's receipt might not give Morrison valid claim, nevertheless it would afford basis for

"Hold on," he interrupted. "I claim precedence. You can give no receipt for any land in these townships until after my business is transacted. I have reason to believe that this gentleman and myself are both after the same descriptions."

"What!" shouted Morrison, assuming

You will have to wait your turn, Mr. Morrison," said the clerk, virtuous be-fore so many witnesses.

The business man was in a white rage

of excitement.
"I insist on my application being filed at once!" he cried, waving his check.
"I have the money right here to pay for every acre of it; and if I know the law, the first man to pay takes the land."

He slapped the check down on the rall and hiffst a number of times with

faced him with a steel look in his level

eyes.

"Mr. Morrison," he said, "you are quite right. The first man who pays gets the land; but I have won the first chance to pay. You will kindly step one side until I finish my business with Mr. Smithers here."

"I suppose you have the amount actually with you," said the clerk, quite respectfully, "because if you have not, Mr. Morrison's claim will take prece-

"I would hardly have any business in a land office if I did not know that," replied Thorpe, and began his dictation of the description as calmly as though

his inside pocket contained the required amount in bank bills.

Thorpe's hopes had sunk to zero. After all, looking at the matter dispassionately, why should be expect Carpenter to trust him, a stranger, with so large a sum? It had been madness only the blind confidence of the

ness. Only the blind confidence of the fighting man led him further into the

in the battered little note book he had carried with him in the woods. For

of excitement.

Mr. Smithers here."

Thorpe saw the trap, and

tention to that lying further back. Thorpe was enabled thus to avoid them entirely. He simply transferred his estimating to the forest by the stream. Once he met one of the men; but was fortunately in a country that lent itself to his pose of hunter. The other he did not see at all.

And the would cantinue, "I'll make it that birch. Then would cantinue, "I'll down and die."

"I'm dootin' that's in order," he replied. "I'll be no party to any such proceedin's. I'm goin' noo for a fresh pour of the men; but was added that immense mential weariness at the door, "but as a wee item of information, yander's th' wheestle rope; inflicts on a man. The journey might last a week, for all he knew. In the

After settled aga as when he started. At sunset ook an hour. Then forward again he dim intermittent light of the mand stars through the ghosting aslant at the ground, and thoughtfully oiling a cylinder with a greasy rag. The secteman deliberated, looking aslant at the ground, and thoughtfully oiling a cylinder with a greasy rag. The secteman deliberated, looking aslant at the ground, and thoughtfully oiling a cylinder with a greasy rag. The mand thoughtfully oiling a cylinder with a greasy rag. The secteman death."

"If this gentleman—?" suggested the correction and trill square it with the captain. There's your twenty."

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"If this gentleman—?" suggested the correction deliberated, looking aslant at the ground, and thoughtfully oiling a cylinder with a greasy rag.

"It lin a be a matter of life and death."

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"It lan probably arrange with this gentleman—?" suggested the clerk eliberated.

"It lis gentleman—?" suggested the clerk eliberated.

"It has be a matter of life and death."

"No," replied Thorpe reluctantly.

"It lan probably arrange with this gentleman—?" the settleman—?" the set

The Indian seemed as he started. At sunset and I'll square it with the captain.

"See here," replied Thorpe, "I've got to get that boat. It's worth \$20 to me, in his volted in his volted.



"I INSIST ON MY APPLICATION BEING FILED AT ONCE!"

up-river men were following carefully but noisily the bed of a little creek. Thorpe happened to be on the side-hill, so he seated himself quietly until

y as that of Radway's scaler. His hand crisped in a gesture of disgust. The man had always been obnoxious

Two days later he stumbled on their camp. He paused in wonder at what

The packs lay open, their contents foot!

Boss he gone on river trail two t'ree

"You're right, Charley," replied Thorpe, who had been drawing his own conclusions. "One of them knows me. They've been looking in their packs for their note books with the descriptions of these sections in them. Then they piled out for the boss. If I know anything at all the boss'll make tracks for

Instantly the Indian became all ac-

"You come," he repeated.

Thorpe hastily unearthed his "descriptions" and wrapped them up. The Indian, in silence, rearranged the misplaced articles in such a manner as to relieve the camp of its abandoned air. It was hearly sundown. Without a word the two men struck off into the forest, the Indian in the lead. Their course was southeast, but Thorpe asked course was southeast, but Thorpe asked no questions. He followed blindly. Soon he found that if he did even that adequately, he would have little attention left for anything else. The Indian walked with long, swift strides, his inces always slightly benk, even at the finish of the step, his back hollowed, his shoulders and head thrust forward. his shoulders and head thrust forward. His gait had a queer sag in it, up and down in a long curve from one rise to the other. After a time Thorpe became fascinated in watching before him this easy, untiring lope, hour after hour, without the variation of a second's fraction in speed nor an inch in length. At first Thorpe followed him with comparative ease, but at the end of three hours he was compelled to put forth decided efforts to keep pace. His walking was no longer mechanical, but conscious. When it becomes so, a man charge.

Then suddenly he gained his second

He felt better and stronger and wind. He fest better
moved freer.

At midnight Injun Charley called a
halt. He spread his blanket, leaned
on one elbow long enough to eat a
strip of dried meat, and fell asleep.
Thorpe imitated his example. Three

nd smoked a pipe.

An hour after noon they repeated the from the office." he objected simply.

"I'm dootin' ye hae th' freight bill peninsula.

"Good n

dozen words. The Indian led; Thorpe followed.

travelers suddenly ran into a trail, which as suddenly dived into a spruce thicket. On the other side of it Thorpe unexpectedly found himself in an extensive clearing, dotted with the blackened stumps of pines. Athwart the distance he could perceive the wide blue horizon of Lake Michigan. He had crossed the Upper Peninsula on

The packs lay open, their contents of the packs lay open, their contents of the packs lay open, their contents scattered in every direction. The fire had been hastily extinguished with a bucket of water, and a frying pan lay where it had been overturned. If the thing had been possible, Thorpe would have guessed at a hasty and unpremeditated flight.

He was about to withdraw carefully lest he be discovered, when he was startled by a touch on his elbow. It was linjun Charley.

"Dey go up river," he said. "I come see what de row."

The Indian examined rapidly the condition of the little camp.

"Dey look for somethin," said he, making his hand revolve as though rummaging, and indicating the tage. But from some had one of the little camp.

"Dey look for somethin," said he, making his hand revolve as though rummaging, and indicating the packs.

"I think dey see you in de woods," he concolleded. "Dev go camp gettum boss. Boss he gone on river trail two t'ree one train, due to leave this very morning, the up-river man was just about pulling out. He would arrive at Mackinaw City at 4 o'clock in the afternoon,

troit."
Wot you do?" asked Injun Charley beat him out yet!"
"You come back?" inquired the In-

I got to get to Detroit before they dian, peering with a certain anxiety into his companion's eyes.

"Come back!" cried Thorpe, "you bet fess the

into his companion's eyes.

"Come back!" cried Thorpe, "you bet fess the chance slender. One other thought made the night seem long.

"I wait!" replied the Indian, and Thorpe had but \$30 left.

He arrived out of breath at a typical little mill town consisting of the usual unpainted houses, the saloons, mill, office and general store. To the latter he addressed himself for infor-

The proprietor, still sleepy, was mopping out the place.
"Does that boat stop here?" shouted Thorpe across the suds.
"Sometimes," replied the man som-

'Not always?" "Only when there's freight for her." "Doesn't she stop for passengers?"

conscious. When it becomes so, a man soon tires. Thorpe resented the inequalities, the stones, the roots, the patches of soft ground which lay in his way. He felt dully that they were not fair. He could negotiate the distance; but anything else was a gratultous insult.

Thorpe imitated his example. Three hours later the Indian roused his companion, and the two set out again.

From 3 o'clock till 8 they walked continually without pause, without an instant's breathing spell. Then they rested half an hour, ate a little venison, and smoked a pipe.

"I'm doutin' ve has the rotter will

hastily to the end of the long lumber docks and peered with great eagerness When the halt was called, Thorpe fell in the direction of the black smoke.

privilege of landing at Mackinaw City.

Then he slept for eight hours on end and was awakened in time to drop into a small boat which deposited him on the broad sand beach of the lower peninsula.

The train was just leisurely making up for departure. Thomps, dressed as the clerk marked across care square of the clerk marked across care square in the clerk marked across care square. In the clerk marked across care square in the clerk marked across care square of the clerk marked across care square.

In his note book Thorpe had, of course, entered the briefest description possible. Now, in dictating 40 the clerk, ne conceived the idea of specifying each subdivision. This gained some time.

to be out of the way. The baggage man proved friendly, so Thorpe chatted with him till after bedtime. Then he

to insure immediate delivery. Supple the boy should be away from home Everything depended on Wallace Car-

Thorpe recognized Daly and Morrison themselves. They passed within ten feet of him, talking earnestly together. At the curb they hailed a cab and drove away. Thorpe with satisfaction heard them call the name of a hotel. It was still two hours before the land

ffice would be open.

fice and approached the desk.

and replied:

pulling out. He would arther afternoon, inaw City at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, where he would be forced to wait until 8 in the evening. By catching a boat at the mill to which Injun Charley had led him Thorpe could still make the same train. Thus the start in the race for Detroit's land office would be fair.

"All right," he cried, all his energy returning to him. "Here goes! We'll or lose land." He paid day rates on it to insure immediate delivery. Suppose

"You come," he ordered, and set out at a rapid pace for eamp.

There, with incredible deftness, he packed together about tweive pounds of the jerked venison and a pair of blankets, thrust. Thorpe's waterproof match safe in his pocket and turned eagerly to the young man.

"You come." he ordered, and set out at a wait!" replied the Indian, and Was gone.

Thorpe saw, over the headland to the sast, a dense trail of black smoke. He set off on a stumbling run toward the mill.

"Language of the replied the Indian, and Worning came at last, and the train drew in and stopped. Thorpe, being in the smoking car, dropped off first and stationed himself near the exit where he could look over the passengers without the sum of the long. Thorpe had but \$30 left.

Morning came at last, and the train drew in and stopped. Thorpe, being in the smoking car, dropped off first and stationed himself near the exit where he could look over the passengers without the sum of the sum he could look over the passengers with-out being seen. They filed past; to two only could he accord the role of master lumbermen, and in these two

> It was still two hours before the land office would be open.
>
> Thorpe repaired at once to a boarding house off Fort street, where he had "outfitted" three months before. There he reclaimed his valise, shaved, clothed himself in linen and cheviot once more and sauntered slowly to the land office to await its opening.
>
> At 9 o'clock neither of the partners had appeared. Thorpe entered the office and approached the desk.

"Is there a telegram here for Harry horpe?" he inquired. The clerk to whom he addressed him-

self merely motioned with his head to-ward a young fellow behind the railing in a corner. The latter, without await-ing the question, shifted comfortably At the same instant steps were heard

in the corridor, the door opened and Mr. Morrison appeared on the sill. Then Thorpe showed the stuff of which he was made.

Good morning, Mr. Morrison. Archie

But one day he heard him. The two presence of an emergency these men of He disappeared. Thorpe seized the

carried with him in the woods. For each piece of land first there came the township described by latitude and east and west range. After this generic description followed another figure representing the section of that particular district. So 49—17 W—8, meant section 8, of the township on range 49 north, 17 west. If Thorpe wished to purchase the whole section that description would suffice. On the other hand, if he wished to buy only one forty, he described its position in the quarter section. Thus SW—NW 49—17—8, meant the southwest forty of the northwest quarter of section 8 in the hill, so he seated himself quietly until they should have moved on down. One of the men shouted to the other, who, crashing through a thicket, did not hear. "Ho-o-o! Dyer!" the first repeated. "Here's that internal corner over here!"

"Yop!" assented the other. "Coming."

"Thorpe recognized the voice instantly as that of Radway's scaler. His hand crisped in a gesture of disgust. The man had always been obnoxious tensive clearing, dotted with the black.

When the halt was called, Thorpe fell into his blanket too weary even to eat. Next morning sharp, shooting pains, like the stabs of swords, ran through his groin.

"You come," repeated the Indian, stolld as ever, when the sun was an hour high the travelers suddenly ran into a trail, which as suddenly dived into a spruce thicket. On the other side of it Thorpe upexpectedly found himself in an extensive clearing, dotted with the black.

northwest quarter of section 8 in the township already described. The clerk marked across each square of his map as Thorpe read them, the

At length the task was finished. It became necessary to type duplicate lists of the descriptions. While the somnolent youth finished his task, Thorpe listened for the messenger boy

on the stairs. A faint slam was heard outside the rickety old building. Hasty steps sounded along the corridor. The land-

looker merely stopped the drumming of his fingers on the broad arm of or his ingers on the broad arm of the chair. The door flew open, and Wal-lace Carpenter walked quickly to him. Thorpe's face lighted up as he rose to greet his partner. The boy had not forgotten their compact after all. "Then it's all right?" queried the lat-ter breathlessly.
"Sure." answered Thorne heartly.

or breatnessiy.
"Sure," answered Thorpe heartily,
got 'em in good shape."
At the same time he was drawing the outh beyond the vigilant watchfulness

You're just in time," he said in an dertone. "Never had so close a squeak. I suppose you have cash or a certified check; that's all they'll take

"What do you mean?" asked Carpen-"Haven't you that money?" returned

Thorpe quick as a hawk. "For heaven's sake, isn't it here?" cried Wallace in consternation. "I wired Duncan, my banker, here last night, and received a reply from him. He answered that he'd see to it. Haven't you seen him?"

'No," repeated Thorpe in his turn. "What can we do?"
"Can you get your check certified here near at hand?"

"Well, go do it. And get a move on you. You have precisely until that boy there finiches ticking that machine. Not a second longer." "Can't you get them to wait a few

"Wallace," said Thorpe, "do you see that white-whiskered old lynx in the corner? That's Morrison, the man who wants to get our land. If I fail to plank down the cash the very instant it is demanded, he gets his chance. And he'll take it. Now, go. Don't hurry until you get beyond the door; then fit?"

"Weel," replied the engineer with fearful deliberation, "I canna say. But I hae received na orders to that effect."

"Can't you whistle her in for me?" asked Thorpe.

"I canna," answered the engineer, "I have some descriptions I wish to buy in."

"I canna," answered the engineer, "I have some descriptions I wish to buy in."

"Ye're na what a body might call freight."

"No other way out of it?"

"Thorpe was selzed with an idea.

"Here!" he cried. "See that boulder over there? I want to ship that to Mackinaw City by freight on this boat."

The Scotchman's eyes twinkled appreciatively.

"I'm dootin' ye hae th' freight bill from the office." he objected simply.

"Good morning, Mr. Morrison, Archie office." he objected simply.

"Good morning, Mr. Morrison, Archie office." he objected simply.

"Good morning, Mr. Morrison, Archie office." he objected simply.

"Good morning, Mr. Morrison, Archie office." he objected simply.

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